

REMARKS

This response is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed December 5, 2003, to request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 4-27, and 29-38 as set forth therein. In the event the Examiner determines that the foregoing amendments do not place the case in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the above amendments be entered to place the claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 39, 41, 46, 47, and 49 are allowed and that claims 1, 4-26, 27, and 29-38 are allowable.

In the Official Action, the Examiner objects to the Drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) because the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner argues that the Drawings do not show the limitation of one of first or second parallelogram sub-linkages being directly fixed to only the payload or a portion thereof as recited in claim 1.

In response, as discussed below, the independent claims have been amended to recite that:

"motion constraint means for maintaining a parallel relationship between the payload and the base structure throughout a range of motion, the motion constraint means comprising at least two parallelogram linkages, each of the at least two parallelogram linkages comprises first and second parallelogram sub-linkages, each of the first and second parallelogram sub-linkages having first and second supporting links, the first and second supporting links for each of the first and second parallelogram sub-linkages being connected to a common member, the first and second supporting links for one of the first or second parallelogram sub-linkages being directly fixed to only the payload or a portion thereof, the first and second supporting links for the other of the first or second parallelogram sub-linkages being directly fixed to only the base structure or a portion thereof."

Applicants respectfully submit that the features recited in independent claims 1, 27, and 36, as amended, is shown in at least Figure 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) be withdrawn.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 4-27, and 29-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner argues that the phrases "one of the first or second parallelogram sub-linkages being directly fixed only to the payload or a portion thereof" and "the other of the first or second parallelogram sub-linkages being directly fixed to only the base structure or a portion thereof" as recited in claim 1 are incorrect. In response, claims 1, 27, and 36 have been amended as discussed above to clarify their distinguishing features.

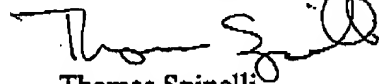
The amendment to claims 1, 27, and 36 are fully supported in the original disclosure, particularly at Figure 1. Thus, no new matter has been introduced into the disclosure by way of the present amendment.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1, 4-27, and 29-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone

conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case,
the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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